

OGC 62-0271

12 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Passage of Information with Respect to the Powers/Abel Exchange

1. In addition to calls listed in the Memorandum for the Record dated 10 February 1962, there were two other calls.

2. On 5 February I personally met with Robert Smart, Chief Counsel of House Armed Services Committee, indicating that negotiations were actively under way for a Powers/Abel exchange. I informed him that the release of Abel had been approved at the highest level if the Soviets would release Powers. I also indicated that efforts were being made to secure in addition the release of [redacted] but that the approval of the release of Abel was conditioned on the release of Powers and anything else was simply bonus. Smart was requested to give this information to Representative Vinson which subsequently he informed me he had done.

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3. On the same day I saw William Darden of the Senate Armed Services Committee staff and went through the same exercise and he later informed me that he had advised Senator Russell.

4. Late in the day on 9 February, I indicated to Smart that it looked like the efforts were going to be successful and that it would probably happen over the weekend. Smart advised that Vinson was in Georgia. We discussed whether or not he should telephone Mr. Vinson and Smart thought this was unnecessary since in their discussion Mr. Vinson had himself speculated that this might occur while he was in Georgia. Therefore, Smart felt a further call was not necessary.

5. Also late in the day, on 9 February, I advised William Darden that it looked like the efforts were going to be successful with arrangements completed over the weekend. He told me he was going immediately to advise Senator Russell.

S/ John S. Warner

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

OGC/LC:JSW:mks

Orig - DCI

1 - Powers File

1 - Chrono. OGC/LC

1 - CIA Sub of House Armed Services

✓ 1 - CIA Sub of Senate Armed Services